



Brown County 4-H Shooting Sports

Basic Range Safety Rules

Range Etiquette

- ☐ **Air Rifle**
- ☐ **Archery**
- ☐ **Shotgun**

The Brown County 4-H Shooting Sports program requires all youth enrolled in the project to participate in the orientation to 4-H Shooting Sports prior to participating in shooting activities. This orientation shall include the Basic Range Safety Rules and Range Etiquette as outlined in this document.



Brown County 4-H Shooting Sports Basic Air Rifle Safety Rules

1. Treat all guns as if they are loaded.
2. Always point the muzzle in a safe direction.
3. Be sure of your target and what is beyond it.
4. Always keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.
5. Always keep the firearm unloaded until ready to shoot.
6. Be sure the barrel and action are clear.
7. Use the correct ammunition for your firearm.
8. Learn the mechanical and handling characteristics of the firearm you are using.
9. Never point a firearm at anything you don't wish to shoot.
10. Never climb a tree, fence, or jump a ditch with a loaded firearm.
11. Never shoot at flat hard surfaces or water.
12. Shoot only with the knowledge and approval of your parents.
13. Do not pick up pellets or BB's from the floor when on the firing line.
14. Follow commands as directed by the range commander:
 - "Bolt Open-----Safety On"
 - "Charge"
 - "Loader Load"
 - "Bolt Forward----Safety Off"
 - "Aim And Fire"
 - "Bolt Open----Safety On"

Air Rifle Range Etiquette

There are a lot of spoken and unspoken rules in air rifle. How many of us actually know what the unspoken rules are? Many of the unspoken rules are what we know as *range etiquette*.

- Follow the range commands and rules as posted.
- Know who the range officer is and who will be calling questionable shot whether it is the range official or designated official.
- If there is a questionable call, you have the right to have the range officer or designated person make the final decision. It is o.k. to question doubtful shots. HOWEVER you need to accept the decision that is made by officials without complaint.
- Be sure that you are behind the firing line. Do not pick up your rifle until instructed to do so by Range Officer. You need to ensure you are aiming at the proper target and that the muzzle is always pointed downrange in a safe direction.
- No loud or inappropriate noises should be made on the range.
- Don't leave the shooting line if someone is firing on either side of you. Wait until their shooting round is complete.
- If you are on the line with your team...wait until all members of the team have completed firing until you leave the shooting line.
- If you try to promote conversation on the shooting line and the person next to you does not respond to your conversation, respect his/her privacy and do not continue to talk. Also do not be afraid to tell someone politely that you prefer not to talk while shooting.
- Know the rules of the tournament before the tournament and then follow them.
- General apparel guidelines for youth and leaders in the shooting sports program:
 - Clothes should be clean and neat.
 - All shirts must adequately cover midsection while shooting. Shirts and tops must meet your pants even when raising your arms.
 - Clothes must not be excessively baggy or loose fitting.
 - Tie back long hair; remove large earrings, clear off pins, necklaces or anything from the chest pocket.
 - Keep clothes with obscene language or symbols of sex, alcohol or drugs at home.
- Check over the shooting range and tournament rules for dress code for each tournament.
- **Exercise GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP**



Brown County 4-H Archery Safety Rules

Archery is lots of fun, but the fun can quickly turn into tragedy unless every archer observes some common sense rules. Before you ever think about using your bow, learn these rules and make up your mind to follow them every time you hold a bow. Remember, most accidents are the result of carelessness and thoughtlessness.

As an archer, you must learn and practice these few simple rules:

1. **Follow the instructions of the commander.** Give attention and listen to the range commander. Ask questions if you do not understand what is said.
2. **Always use proper safety equipment,** including an arm guard, finger tab or glove. A leader will ask the youth to reposition their safety equipment to prevent injury if the equipment is incorrectly positioned. If still incorrect the leader will ask the youth if they can reposition the equipment.
3. **Always use arrows of the proper length for you.** Arrows that are too short can cause injuries.
4. **Always inspect your equipment before shooting,** damaged equipment should be repaired or replaced to avoid injuries. Replace the bowstring whenever it becomes worn.
5. **Wear snug fitting clothes, tie back long hair, remove large earrings, and clear off and pins or remove anything from the chest pockets.**
6. **Always aim and shoot only at definite target:** never shoot just for the sake of shooting. Always be sure you know what your target is and that it is safe to shoot. If you're not sure, take a closer look, you are still not sure, do not shoot.
7. **Always be sure the area around and behind your target is clear before you shoot.** Never shoot if there is a chance your arrow may ricochet from the target or another object and hit someone.
8. **Point, Draw, and Aim your arrow only in the direction of your target.** The arrow must always be pointed (aimed) in a proper, safe shooting position. A Leader will ask the youth to change their shooting position if their stance is incorrect. If it is still incorrect the leader will ask the youth if the leader can reposition the archer.
9. **Never "DRYFIRE" your bow.** Always have an arrow on the string when shooting the bow, "DRYFIRING", shooting a bow without an arrow can seriously damage a bow.

10. **Always walk, never run, on the archery range.** If you run, you might accidentally cross in front of another archer, step on arrows lying on the ground, or trip and fall into a target and be injured by arrows sticking out of it.

11. **Shoot only with the knowledge and approval of your parents.**

12. **Follow the whistle commands given by the range commander.** If you are not familiar with the whistle commands as the range commander to give verbal commands with the whistle blasts until you are familiar with them.

- **WHISTLE: TWO BLASTS**

- o VERBAL: "Archers to the shooting line"

- o Meaning: Pick up bow and move into position on the shooting line. Do Not pick up arrows

- **WHISTLE: ONE BLAST**

- o VERBAL: "Begin Shooting"

- o Meaning: Archers may take the arrows out of the quivers and begin shooting.

- **WHISTLE: THREE BLASTS**

- o VERBAL: "Walk Forward and get your arrows"

- o Meaning: Archers have completed shooting. All archers have set their bows down and are standing behind the waiting line. They may now go forward to the target line and pull their arrows.

- **WHISTLE: FOUR OR MORE BLASTS (series of blasts)**

- o VERBAL: "STOP, STOP, STOP, STOP" or "CEASE FIRE"

- o Meaning: Immediately let down and put arrows back in the quiver and step back behind the waiting line.

There is an emergency on the range.

Remember to follow those unspoken rules in archery that we call Range Etiquette. Ask your leader for a copy.

References: N.A.A. Rules of Target Shooting: N.A.A. Instructor Manual
N.A.A. Junior Olympic Archery Development Program
Archery merit badge pamphlet, Boy Scouts of America

Archery Range Etiquette

There are a lot of spoken and unspoken rules in archery. How many of us actually know what the unspoken rules are? Many of the unspoken rules are what we know as range etiquette.

- Follow the range commands and rules as posted.
- Know who the range commander is and who will be calling questionable arrows whether it is the range commander or designated official.
- If there is a questionable call, you have the right to have the range commander or designated person make the final decision. It is o.k. to question doubtful arrows. HOWEVER you need to accept the decision that is made by the officials without complaint.
- Be sure that you are in your lane. You need to straddle your lane number.
- No loud or inappropriate noises should be made on the range. No knuckle cracking, no chewing bubble gum, etc.
- Don't leave the shooting lane if someone is at full draw on either side of you. Wait until the arrow is released.
- If you are on the line with your team...wait until all members of the team have shot all their arrows until you leave the shooting line.
- If you try to promote conversation and the shooting line and the person a next to you does not respond to your conversation, respect his/her privacy and do not continue to talk. Also do not be afraid to tell someone politely that you prefer not to talk while shooting.
- Know the rules of the tournament before the tournament and then follow them.
- General apparel guidelines for youth and leaders in the 4-H Shooting Sports program:
 - Clothes should be clean and neat.
 - All shirts must adequately cover midsection while shooting. Shirts and tops must meet your pants even when raising your arms.
 - Clothes must not be excessively baggy or loose fitting.
 - Tie back long hair; remove large earrings, clear off pins, necklaces or anything from the chest pocket.
 - Keep clothes with obscene language or symbols of sex, alcohol or drugs at home.
- Check over the shooting range and tournament rules for dress code for each tournament.
- **Exercise GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP.**



Brown County 4-H Shotgun Safety Rules

1. Follow the instructions of the range officer
2. Treat all guns as if they are loaded.
3. Always point the muzzle in a safe direction.
4. Be sure of your target and what is beyond it.
5. Always keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.
6. Always keep the firearm unloaded until ready to shoot.
7. Be sure the barrel and action are clear.
8. Use the correct ammunition for your firearm.
9. Learn the mechanical and handling characteristics of the firearm you are using.
10. Never point a firearm at anything you don't wish to shoot.
11. Never climb a tree, fence, or jump a ditch with a loaded firearm.
12. Never shoot at flat hard surfaces or water.
13. Shoot only with the knowledge and approval of your parents.
14. Safety glasses and hearing protection must be worn when shooting or near the firing line.
15. If you have a misfire, keep the muzzle pointed down range and hold for 30 seconds before ejecting the shell.
16. If you have a squib load, make sure you inspect the barrel before loading another round to ensure it isn't blocked.
17. Follow all safety rules of the range where you are shooting and practice good sportsmanship and etiquette.

Shotgun Range Etiquette

There are a lot of spoken and unspoken rules in shotgun. How many of us actually know what the unspoken rules are? Many of the unspoken rules are what we know as *range etiquette*.

- Follow the range commands and rules as posted.
- Know who the range officer is and who will be calling questionable shot whether it is the range official or designated official.
- If there is a questionable call, you have the right to have the range officer or designated person make the final decision. It is o.k. to question doubtful shots. HOWEVER you need to accept the decision that is made by officials without complaint.
- Do not load a shell until ready to shoot. You need to ensure you are pointing at the target and that the muzzle is always pointed downrange in a safe direction
- No loud or inappropriate noises should be made on the range.
- Don't leave the shooting line if someone is firing on either side of you. Wait until their shooting round is complete.
- If you are on the line with your team...wait until all members of the team have completed firing until you leave the shooting line.
- If you try to promote conversation on the shooting line and the person next to you does not respond to your conversation, respect his/her privacy and do not continue to talk. Also do not be afraid to tell someone politely that you prefer not to talk while shooting.
- Know the rules of the tournament before the tournament and then follow them.
- General apparel guidelines for youth and leaders in the shooting sports program:
 - Clothes should be clean and neat.
 - All shirts must adequately cover midsection while shooting. Shirts and tops must meet your pants even when raising your arms.
 - Clothes must not be excessively baggy or loose fitting.
 - Tie back long hair; remove large earrings, clear off pins, necklaces or anything from the chest pocket.
 - Keep clothes with obscene language or symbols of sex, alcohol or drugs at home.
- Check over the shooting range and tournament rules for dress code for each tournament.
- **Exercise GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP**